

What is claimed is:

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1. A communication device connected to a network and enabling communication of messages at least by characters, comprising:

a transmitting and receiving means for implementing communication of messages with a communication device of the other party of communication via said network;

a communication content displaying means for displaying in a communication content displaying area of a screen display the content of communication with said communication device of said other party;

a candidate term displaying means for displaying in a candidate term displaying area of said screen display a group of candidate terms prepared in advance for communication of said messages;

a term selecting means for outputting a term selected by a transmitter out of said group of candidate terms; and

a message forming means for serially displaying a plurality of output terms in a message editing area of said screen display, and thereby forming messages and sending the formed message to said transmitting and receiving means.

2. A character communication device according to claim 1, wherein the communication device of said other party is either a host computer executing a program of a communication-type game

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in accordance with accesses from a plurality of computers having a character communication device, or a communication device operated by participants taking part in said communication-type game.

3. A character communication device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said candidate term displaying means receives said group of candidate terms from said communication device of said other party.

4. A character communication device according to claim 2, classified at least according to the names of said participants in the game, or game-related nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, inflections, symbols, or short sentences registered by users.

5. A character communication device according to any one of claims 1 through 4, wherein said group of candidate terms are arranged in a table in a plurality of pages, and one of said plurality of pages is displayed in said candidate term displaying area.

6. A character communication device comprising:
a storing means for storing a message language conversion table including a single message expressed in a plurality of languages;

a menu displaying means for selectably displaying on a

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menu screen of a display a plurality of messages expressed in a single language;

a language conversion means for referring to said message language conversion table and converting a selected message to a message in a language of a party with whom communication is held; and

a transmitting means for transmitting the converted message to said communication counterpart.

7. A character communication device comprising:

a storing means for storing a database including a plurality of messages in a single language and marks added to each of said messages;

a menu displaying device for selectably displaying some of said plurality of messages on a menu screen of a display;

a message mark outputting means for outputting marks corresponding to a selected message by referring to said database; and

a transmitting means for transmitting the output message marks to a party with whom communication is held.

8. A character communication device according to claim 6 or 7, wherein said messages are displayed in a form of cards.

9. A game device comprising character communication device according to any one of claims 1 through 8.

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10. A game device according to claim 9, wherein selective operation by said communicator is implemented via a game controller serving as an inputting device of the game device.

11. A character communication system connected to a network and structured to include a plurality of character communication devices capable of performing message communication at least by characters, comprising:

a first character communication device used for communication by a first message group in one language; and

a second character communication device used for communication by a second message group in another language;

wherein communication between said first and second character communication devices are performed using symbols commonly assigned in advance to messages having common meanings, included in each of said first message group and said second message group.

12. A character communication system comprising:

a first character communication device for displaying messages in a first language;

a second character communication device for displaying messages in a second language; and

a network for connecting both communication devices, wherein said first character communication device

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comprises:

a storing means for storing a message table including a plurality of messages in said first and second languages;

a message displaying means for selectably displaying on a screen some of said plurality messages in the first language;

a language conversion means for converting an applicable message in the first language to a message in the second language by referring to said message table; and

a transmitting means for transmitting the converted message to said second character communication device.

13. A character inputting device for inputting characters expressed by a combination of vowels and consonants, comprising:

a consonant inputting means for mainly inputting consonant information of characters which are to be input;

a vowel inputting means for mainly inputting vowel information of characters which are to be input; and

an input character identifying means for identifying characters input according to a combination of consonant information and vowel information.

14. A character inputting device according to claim 13,

wherein said consonant inputting means and said vowel inputting means are respectively arranged on the operation panel of said character inputting device,

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and wherein said consonant inputting means is arranged such that it is positioned toward one side of said operation panel with respect to the center position thereof in the longitudinal direction, and said vowel inputting means is arranged to be positioned toward the other side of said operation panel with respect to the center position thereof in the longitudinal direction, and both of said consonant inputting means and said vowel inputting means can be operated manually with both hands holding said operation panel.

15. A character inputting device according to claim 14, wherein said consonant inputting means is formed by a figure keyboard mainly including a plurality of figure keys, and said vowel inputting means is formed by a composite switch for producing a plurality of types of output in accordance with an operational status of one actuator.

16. A character inputting device according to claim 15, wherein said composite switch includes a cross key, a joystick, a pointing device or a trackball.

17. A portable communication device including a character inputting device according to any one of claims 13 through 16.

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**TRANSLATION OF
ANNEXES (AMENDED SHEETS)**

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Amended Claims:

1. (Amended) A communication device connected to a network and enabling communication of messages at least by characters, comprising:

a transmitting and receiving means for implementing communication of messages with a communication device of the other party of communication via said network;

a communication content displaying means for displaying in a communication content displaying area of a screen display the content of communication with said communication device of said other party;

a candidate term displaying means for displaying in a candidate term displaying area of said screen display a group of candidate terms prepared in advance for said messages, in a manner allowing selection by a unit of words or phrases constituting a sentence;

a term selecting means for outputting a term selected by a transmitter out of said group of candidate terms; and

a message forming means for serially displaying a plurality of output terms in a message editing area of said screen display, and thereby forming messages and sending the formed message to said transmitting and receiving means.

2. A character communication device according to claim 1, wherein the communication device of said other party is either

a host computer executing a program of a communication-type game in accordance with accesses from a plurality of computers having a character communication device, or a communication device operated by participants taking part in said communication-type game.

3. A character communication device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said candidate term displaying means receives said group of candidate terms from said communication device of said other party.

4. A character communication device according to claim 2, classified at least according to the names of said participants in the game, or game-related nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, inflections, symbols, or short sentences registered by users.